

Above, once a genteel country hotel and the first animal preserve in West Virginia, the Allegheny Lodge in Minnehaha Springs burned down in 1983. State Sen. Walt

Lost & found

Senator, wife want to bring life back into Allegheny Lodge

By THERESE SMITH COX
DAILY MAIL STAFF

MINNEHAHA SPRINGS — A visitor to this rolling Pocahontas County valley might notice up on the hillside a few rundown cabins and a crumbling stone foundation.

But state Sen. Walt Helmick sees beyond the peeling paint and the vacant footprint of a resort lodge that fire destroyed in 1983.

The Marlinton resident and

Senate finance chairman envisions 10 quaint cottages, a handsome country hotel and a commercial spring water bottling plant.

The once-famous Allegheny Lodge land, a 1912 sportsmen's club and the state's first wild animal preserve, is undergoing a rebirth.

"Our intent is to develop the property as it once was," Helmick said.

Helmick, and his wife, Rita, bought the 200 acres two years ago from Charleston

CRAIG CUNNINGHAM/DAILY MAIL
Helmick, D-Pocahontas and his wife, Rita, plan to resurrect the lodge exactly as it was. Below, Helmick also plans to begin bottling the property's spring water next month.



physicians David Seidler and Jack Tolliver for \$450,000. They estimate it may take another \$2 million to build a lodge and cabins and restore existing buildings.

Passers-by often recognize the lost landmark, located just off W Va. 92 nine miles east of Marlinton, by its massive en-

■ Turn to **FOUND/9A**

Detective taking on a new kind

ALLEGHENY LODGE LAND | A REBIRTH BEGINS



CRAIG CUNNINGHAM/DAILY MAIL

Above, once a genteel country hotel and the first animal preserve in West Virginia, the Allegheny Lodge in Minnehaha Springs burned down in 1983. State Sen. Walt

Helmick, D-Pocahontas and his wife, Rita, plan to resurrect the lodge exactly as it was. Below, Helmick also plans to begin bottling the property's spring water next month.

comper

By CHRIS I
DAILY MAIL

The sta
may have
about 10
strake w
stores cl
H the

OUR

short
benefi
are bu
indivi
come
othe
rally
to 3
we

CO

Found

■ Continued From 1A

where an English Tudor timber-frame gate flanked by large natural stone piers.

But what's inside the entrance will draw visitors, Helmuck said.

This week, workmen John and Marshall Smith and Harry Whiting are scraping old paint from the clapboard siding on Puerari and two cottages and cutting some 100-foot-tall trees for lumber for five new cottages.

Already Helmuck has regenerated water lines to the hillside springs - which gush 700,000 drops clear and chilly gallons of water a day - and installed a small bottling plant. He expects to begin bottling soon and have 16.9-ounce and 12-ounce containers of Minnehaha Mist in stores in November.

"The water never sees daylight," Helmuck said. "It is pure." The bottling plant will be a very small operation to see

what the market will bear. If market determination is made, we're looking at constructing a larger plant. We understand the value of water more than they did in 1912."

Within two years, contractors should finish building the new 12-room hotel, to resemble the original \$15,000 "handsome and commodious clubhouse," as described in a 1911 Pocatonton Times newspaper story quoting game warden J.A. Vignosemy, who bought the McElwaine farm with his deputy that year.

A 60-seat restaurant will span the fourth floor of the 14-dormer lodge, set with two or three front porches, fireplaces and a brick floor, using some original materials found on the site, Helmuck said.

The spectacular view from the original, still-standing, curved stairway focused through the Knappa Creek Valley to rows of verdant mountains dozens of miles in the dis-



KEVIN CAGE/DAILY MAIL

tance. You can look at the mountains and see a lot of Civil War history," Helmuck said, noting that the resort lies only 14 miles from the Blomstead in Virginia, 29 miles from Sawtooth Mountain and 30 miles from The Greenbrier.

Luminaries such as Nobel Prize winner Pearl Buck and three-time Olympic gold medal skier Jean Claude Killy stayed at the old Allegheny Lodge, as well as visitors from several countries. West Virginia governors William Glasscock and William MacCordle were original members of the sportsmen's club, according to the Fall 1991 *Goldenstate* magazine.

Of note were the dozens of elk that once roamed the club's original 5,000 acres, though they were considered extinct at the state as of 1973. Vignosemy had hired cowboys in 1912 to round up several Rocky Mountain elk and ship them by railroad car to Minnehaha Springs,

where their descendants lived until 1990.

Elkerts is fast runner for the last four elk, which roamed in neighbors' farms and are now extinct. They had to be set loose.

Helmuck said he expects a "re-populate" his emerging "modest small resort" with elk.

McElwaine workers are restoring the cottages for later rental. The McElwaine, both of whom spend much time in Charleston where she works, plan to move from their downtown Marlinton home to a rustic green-painted cabin that sits at the apex of the open meadow overlooking the old nine-hole golf course, the clubhouse, the trading post, the cottages and the soon-to-be-built lodge.

"I want to make it right," Helmuck said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Writer Thomas Smith can be reached at 343-8874 or by e-mail at thomas@dailyoil.com.

Found

■ Continued From 1A

trance — an English Tudor timbered-type gate flanked by huge natural stone piers.

But what's inside the entrance will draw visitors, Helmick said.

This week, workmen John and Marshall Smith and Harry Whiting are scraping old paint from the clapboard siding on Piecrust and Suco cottages and cutting some 100-foot-tall trees for lumber for five new cottages.

Already, Helmick has repaired water lines to the hillside springs — which gush 700,000 crisply clear and chilly gallons of water a day — and installed a small bottling plant. He expects to begin bottling soon and have 16.9-ounce and 12-ounce containers of Minnehaha Mist in stores in November.

"The water never sees daylight," Helmick said. "It is pure."

"The bottling plant will be a very small operation to see

what the market will bear. If market determination is made, we're looking at constructing a larger plant. We understand the value of water more than they did in 1912."

Within two years, contractors should finish building the new 12-room hotel, to resemble the original \$15,000 "handsome and commodious clubhouse," as described in a 1911 Pocahontas Times newspaper story quoting game warden J.A. Viquesney, who bought the McElwee farm with his deputy that year.

A 60-seat restaurant will span the fourth floor of the 14-dormer lodge, set with two or three front porches, fireplaces and a brick floor, using some original materials found on the site, Helmick said.

The spectacular view from the original, still-standing, curved stairway focuses through the Knapp's Creek Valley to rows of verdant mountains dozens of miles in the dis-



KEVIN CADE/VI

tance. Guests once walked on breezy verandas in the original Southern-plantation lodge.

"In the winter, on cold



KEVIN CADE/DAILY MAIL

days, you can look at the mountains and see a lot of Civil War history," Helmick said, noting that the resort lies only 24 miles from the Homestead in Virginia, 29 miles from Snowshoe Mountain and 39 miles from The Greenbrier.

Luminaries such as Nobel Prize winner Pearl Buck and three-time Olympic gold medal skier Jean Claude Killy stayed at the old Allegheny Lodge, as well as visitors from several countries. West Virginia governors William Glasscock and William MacCorkle were original members of the sportsmen's club, according to the Fall 1991 *Golden Seal* magazine.

Of note were the dozens of elk that once roamed the club's original 5,000 acres, though they were considered extinct in the state as of 1875. Viquesney had hired cowboys in 1912 to round up several Rocky Mountain elk and ship them by railroad car to Minnehaha Springs,

where their descendants lived until 1990.

Efforts to find homes for the last four elk, which trekked to neighbors' farms and ate crops, failed. They had to be put down.

Helmick said he hopes to repopulate his emerging "quality small resort" with elk.

Meanwhile, workers are restoring the cottages for later rental. The Helmicks, both of whom spend much time in Charleston where she works, plan to move from their downtown Marlinton house to a rustic, green-painted cabin that sits at the apex of the open meadow, overlooking the old nine-hole golf course, the rifle range, the wading pool, the cottages and the soon-to-be-built lodge.

"I want to make it right," Helmick said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Writer Therese Smith Cox can be reached at 348-4874 or by e-mail at therese@dailymail.com.

tance. Guests once walked the breezy verandas in the imposing Southern-plantation style lodge.

"In the winter, on cold, brisk



Above: once a genteel country hotel and the first animal preserve in West Virginia, the Allegheny Lodge in Minnehaha Springs burned down in 1963. State Sen. Walt

Helmick, D-Pocahontas and his wife, Rita, plan to resurrect the lodge exactly as it was. Below, Helmick also plans to begin bottling the property's spring water next month.

CRAIG CUNNINGHAM/DAILY MAIL

Above, once a genteel country hotel and the first animal preserve in West Virginia, the Allegheny Lodge in Minnehaha Springs burned down in 1983. State Sen. Walt

Helmick, D-Pocahontas and his wife, Rita, plan to resurrect the lodge exactly as it was. Below, Helmick also plans to begin bottling the property's spring water next month.

Lost & found

Senator, wife want to bring life back into Allegheny Lodge

By THERESE SMITH COX
DAILY MAIL STAFF

MINNEHARA SPRINGS — A visitor to this rolling Pocahontas County valley might notice up on the hillside a few rundown cabins and a crumbling stone foundation.

But state Sen. Walt Helmick sees beyond the peeling paint and the vacant footprint of a resort lodge that fire destroyed in 1983.

The Marlinton resident and

Senate finance chairman envisions 10 quaint cottages, a handsome country hotel and a commercial spring water bottling plant.

The once-famous Allegheny Lodge land, a 1912 sportsman's club and the state's first wild animal preserve, is undergoing a rebirth.

"Our intent is to develop the property as it once was," Helmick said.

Helmick, and his wife, Rita, bought the 200 acres two years ago from Charleston



physicians David Seidler and Jack Tolliver for \$450,000. They estimate it may take another \$2 million to build a lodge and cabins and restore existing buildings.

Passers-by often recognize the lost landmark, located just off W Va. 92 nine miles east of Marlinton, by its massive en-

■ Turn to **FOUND/9A**

Detective taking on a new kind of

By KRIS WISE
DAILY MAIL STAFF

Detective George Jarrett has made a name for himself on Charleston's

week when he retires from the department, he'll instead start a new career tracking down people who don't take care of their property.

"I'll still be policing, it's just a dif-

early in his West Side al-
ligent landl-
erty code va-
owners to
lance and b-



Allegheny Lodge

Four-Season Resort on 200 Acres Near "The Greenbrier"
Monetta Springs, West Virginia

Alleghany Lodge . . . A Secluded Mountain Paradise Antique-Furnished Resort in the Pocahontas Highlands

The Alleghany Lodge is a four-season mountain retreat which features turn-of-the-century charm and decor. The white-columned main lodge which accommodates 32 guests overlooks Stony Creek Valley and the Alleghany Mountains. Six fully-equipped cottages are tucked away amidst 100' tall pines on the resort's 200 acres which adjoin the more than 800,000 acre Monongahela National Forest. And only four miles away is the 1-million acre George Washington National Forest.

Sportsmen can experience a myriad of prime **hunting** and **fishing** at both National Forests while enjoying the quaint accommodations and scrumptious country cooking offered at the Alleghany Lodge. Nearby rivers and streams challenge the fisherman with bass and trout. The forests abound with bear, deer, wild turkey, grouse and a variety of small game.

The Lodge's great room features a close-up look at many of these. (They're stuffed, of course!), while relaxing by a roaring fire or socializing in the lounge area. You can even sharpen your marksman skills on the Lodge's Skeet Range.

Golfers can play at a local 9-hole course or enjoy the championship courses at the famous Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs or the Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia. Both are within 30 miles of the Lodge.

Skiing enthusiasts have easy access to some of the best skiing in mid-America at Snowshoe Ski Resort

which boasts a 1,500' vertical, miles of interconnecting trails and 7 triple chair lifts.

Other attractions popular with lodge guests are the East Scenic Railroad, the Green Bank Observatory, Pearl Buck's home and the quality shops of the **Greenbrier** or the **Gristmill Square** located near the Homestead.

Breakfast and dinner are served Daily. Country style, in the Lodge's dining room located on the lower level of the main Lodge. The lower level also offers sports challenge in the Game Room with **billiards** and **ping pong**.

Or you can just relax in a swing or wicker rocking chair on one of the many porches and take in the breathtaking natural beauty of this unspoiled land.

The Alleghany Lodge is truly a mountain paradise to be enjoyed during all seasons. We hope you'll join us soon because you'll want to return again and again.

Call or write for our current rates which include breakfast and dinner. Groups can be accommodated upon request.

Garnie R. Stidham

Garnie R. Stidham
Owner





One of the numerous porches with lovely views of Stoney Creek Valley and the Allegheny Mountains



Edgewood Cabin



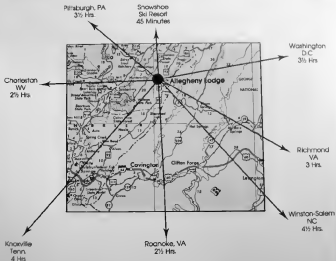
Barbecue and proposed Tennis Courts



Indoor recreation room with pool tables and ample equipment



Pine Creek cabin guests enjoy a visit from an elk herd



The Allegheny Lodge is located 9 miles east of Marlinton, West Virginia on Route 39.

Take I-64 or Route 80 to White Sulphur Springs, then go north on 92 to Route 39. At Route 39 go west for four miles to Minnehaha Springs. The entrance to the Allegheny Lodge will be on your left.

For reservations and information contact:

Allegheny Lodge
Minnehaha Springs, WV 24960
304 799-4871



Minnehaha Springs, W. Va. 24960
304 - 799 - 4871

RATES

Daily Price Per Unit

PIECRUST COTTAGE **\$150.00**

2-bedrooms, bath, sitting area — Sleeps 5

GUEST APARTMENT **\$225.00**

3-bedrooms, kitchen, shower-bath, living room
with sleeper couch — Sleeps 8

SUCO COTTAGE **\$175.00**

Large bedroom with 2 double beds, living room
with sleeper couch, kitchenette, bath — Sleeps 6

GREEN COTTAGE **\$ 75.00**

1-bedroom, shower, living room with 2-sleeper
couches — Sleeps 6

PINECREST COTTAGE **\$210.00**

2-bedrooms, kitchen, living room with sleeper couch,
dining room, large porch and fireplace
bath-shower — Sleeps 6-8

EDGEWOOD COTTAGE **\$185.00**

2-small bedrooms, 1-large bedroom, kitchenette
living room with sleeper couch, fireplace — Sleeps 6

15-Bedrooms in Main Lodge Building — Sleeping 2 to 4 persons. Some with private bath.
Price ranges from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per person double occupancy. \$12.50 for added cot. 5% W. Va.
sales tax not included.

Discounts	3-Days	Less 15%
	4-Days	Less 20%
	5-Days	Less 30%
	7-Days	Less 35%

The Above Rates
Do Not Include Meals

Deposit & Cancellation Procedures (Cottage Rentals)

* 50% of total bill is due within 14 days of booking reservation. Remainder is due upon check-in. Payment accepted
Cash, Travelers Checks, Personal Check, VISA or Mastercharge

* A separate \$100.00 security deposit per unit will be collected for ALL cottages upon check-in. This will be returned
provided party has checked out no later than 12:00 Noon and no damage or loss has occurred to the cottage.

* Pending cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to date of arrival, your deposit will be refunded minus a
\$25.00 service charge per cottage. If cancellation is made 30 days or less prior to arrival, the entire deposit will be
forfeited.

FOOD: Breakfast and Dinner will be served family style. Breakfast 6:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Dinner 5:00 PM - 8:00
PM. Breakfast \$4.00, Dinner \$10.00 (tax not included)

Beverages: No Alcoholic beverages are sold at Allegheny Lodge. However, beer and wine may be purchased at local
stores and stores to a W. Va. All stores 9 miles away at Marlinton, W. Va. Mixes and soft drinks are available at the main
lodge building.

Arrival & Departure: Guests may check in the lodge building after 1:00 PM for rooms in the lodge and after 2:00
PM for those staying in the cottages. CHECK OUT TIME WILL BE 12:00 Noon.

PETS: Not permitted.

LAUNDRY: WASHER & DRYER IN LAUNDRY ROOM. SMALL FEE.

SMOKE: Most accommodations are located within 10 miles.